

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Independent claims 1, 2, and 12 have been amended to make some clarifying improvements based on the disclosure at, for example, page 44, lines 6-10; page 45, line 12 to page 46, line 2; page 46, line 11 to page 47, line 4; and page 53, lines 10-12. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered under 37 CFR 1.116.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of *Femtosecond laser ablation of DAST* ("Dittrich et al") and "admitted prior art." This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to the claims set forth above.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, an organic crystal observing and working method is provided in which an organic crystal is worked by irradiation with short-pulse laser light, wherein both observation and working are performed while maintaining a state

in which the portion of this organic crystal being worked is cooled to a low temperature.

In addition, according to the present invention recited in amended independent claim 2, an organic crystal observing and working method is provided in which an organic crystal is worked by irradiation with short-pulse laser light, wherein both observation and working are performed while maintaining a state in which the portions of this organic crystal and a substance holding this organic crystal that are being worked are cooled to a low temperature.

Independent claims 1, 2, and 12 are based on the new idea that the use of a short-pulse laser light for working allows both observation and working to be performed while maintaining a state in which the portion of the organic crystal being worked is cooled to a low temperature (claim 1), or while maintaining a state in which the portions of the organic crystal and a substance holding the organic crystal that are being worked are cooled to a low temperature (claim 2).

Dittrich et al discloses a method and apparatus for laser treating organic materials in which a short-pulsed laser beam is used. As acknowledged by the Examiner, however, Dittrich et al does not disclose working an organic crystal while maintaining a state in which the portion of the organic crystal being worked is cooled to a low temperature, or while maintaining a state in

which the portions of the organic crystal and a substance holding the organic crystal that are being worked are cooled to a low temperature.

The Examiner has cited the "admitted prior art" to supply the missing teachings of Dittrich et al.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that the "admitted prior art" only discloses cooling crystals to perform measurements. The "admitted prior art" does not disclose that working is performed in a cooled state.

Accordingly, even if Dittrich et al and the "admitted prior art" were combinable as suggested by the Examiner, the combination still would not fairly suggest the methods recited in claims 1 and 2, in which both observation and working are performed while maintaining the cooled state.

For similar reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Dittrich et al and the "admitted prior art" do not fairly suggest the apparatus recited in amended independent claim 12, which "is configured such that the organic crystal is observed and worked by irradiation with the short-pulse laser light, while the organic crystal is cooled to the low temperature."

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 2, and 12, and all the claims respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguish over Dittrich

et al and the "admitted prior art," taken singly or in any reasonable combination, under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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